

If the FCC grants BellSouth's petition for forbearance, then I fear this will eventually lead to a situation in which the only competition in the broadband marketplace will be between the ILEC and the local cable service. In my area this would mean broadband from either SBC or Comcast, two corporate monoliths. This would be a duopoly, not a true competitive situation.

I am currently getting DSL service from a regional ISP which buys DSL transport from SBC Advanced Solutions, Inc. I choose an independent ISP rather than SBC for DSL service because of superior customer service -- not outsourced -- and a host of features I would not be able to get from SBC, such as true static IPs, SSH access to a shell server, great Usenet news service, IPv6 tunneling, etc. I want to be able to continue getting such services from a broadband provider. And the only way this is going to happen is if independent ISPs can continue to have access to an ILEC's data transport infrastructure. Please deny BellSouth's petition.